

WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

LICENSURE PATHWAYS IMPLEMENTATION STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

**Virtual Meeting
February 10, 2026**

Call to Order and Welcome

The meeting of the Licensure Pathways Implementation Steering Committee of the Washington State Bar Association (WSBA) was called to order by Chair Zaida Rivera on Tuesday, February 10, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. Committee members in attendance were:

Zaida Rivera

Tom Ahearne

Jordan Couch

Alfredo González Benítez

Judge Cathy Helman

Vivian Hernández

Dusty Weber LaMay

Dean Tamara Lawson

Julia McGann

Yuriko Styles

Dean Anthony Varona

Also in attendance were WSBA Assistant General Counsel Catherine Schur; WSBA Chief Regulatory Counsel Renata Garcia; WSBA Associate Director Bobby Henry; Professor Gillian Dutton, and observers Daniel Szymanski, Cole Barron, Amir Khan, and Egor Redin.

Approve Dec. 11, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Alfredo moved to approve the December 11, 2025 minutes; Jordan seconded. Minutes approved unanimously.

Member and Public Comment

Members of the public asked questions regarding the timeline for implantation of the experiential licensing pathway. Committee members and WSBA staff explained that the Steering Committee aims to consider all recommendations at the upcoming March meeting and may take a vote on the recommendations at that time. The recommendations will be submitted to the Washington Supreme Court following approval by the Steering Committee. While the precise timing for opening applications will be dependent on the Court's schedule for considering the recommendations, the goal is to be able to accept applications in early 2027.

Members of the public also asked several questions about the NextGen bar exam. Committee members explained that the exam is intended to assess more practical skills and that more information can be found on NCBE's [NextGen webpage](#).

Update from Supervised Practice Subcommittee

Professor Gillian Dutton presented updates on the pathway recommendations from the Supervised Practice Subcommittee. Professor Dutton discussed recommendations for candidate compensation and methods for structuring requirements for the number of hours and credits required for candidate supervised practice time.

The Steering Committee provided input on these topics. Steering Committee members asked about the interaction between compensation requirements and labor and immigration law. Steering Committee members also discussed whether work generated prior to participation in the pathway could be counted, the extent to which law schools may set criteria for students to participate, and the feasibility of completing all supervised practice time prior to graduation from law school.

Discussion of Draft Rule Amendments

Catherine Schur noted for the Steering Committee that proposed draft amendments to the Washington Supreme Court's Admission and Practice Rules were included with this meeting's materials. Cate highlighted a few areas for committee members to keep in mind as they review the rules, including the use of the APR 9 limited license and application of the pathway to out-of-state participants.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m. on February 10, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Schur
Assistant General Counsel